

NORTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

REPORT

To: SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE		Subject: NORTH LANARKSHIRE STRATEGY FOR CARERS – PROGRESS REPORT ON USE OF FUNDS
From: DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WORK		
Date: 23 August 2001	Ref: GS/DM	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT / INTRODUCTION

1.1. This report updates Committee on the use of funds allocated for services to carers in North Lanarkshire 2001/2002 and seeks approval for additional proposals to create further direct services to carers.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. As part of the National Strategy for Carers, the Scottish Executive made provision in each of the last two local government settlements for funds to provide services to carers. The total allocation for North Lanarkshire is £627,500. The use of these monies is required to be agreed by carers groups, with written evidence to this effect to accompany the issue of Joint Community Care Plans to the Scottish Executive.
- 2.2. In order to ensure agreement by carers and carers organisations, all proposals for funding have been presented to the Carers Strategy Group which has invited, received and considered requests for funding. This group, which has met regularly since 1999, has representation from carers, carers organisations, Health and Social Work and was responsible for the production of the North Lanarkshire Strategy for Carers.
- 2.3. Committee has previously approved the use of monies for 2000/2001 and in May 2001 approved use of the bulk of these monies for 2001/2002. Some proposals were still to be considered further by carers and progress on these is contained in this report.

3. PROPOSALS / CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. Of the total funds, the use of £548,630 has been previously agreed by Committee. Organisations who received monies have been invited to invoice the Department. Arrangements for monitoring and evaluating the use of spend have been set up with carers. In respect of this amount there remained three areas to be finalised, following further discussion with carers. These were:
 - £155,625 to employ Carers Support Workers and part time administrative support. Carers strongly supported the principle of this approach, modelled on the successful CLASP project in Wishaw, which entailed creating equivalent arrangements in each of the 5 Social Work area team locations. Further debate focused on whether the Social Work Department should employ these staff or whether a local voluntary organisation should do so. These discussions have not yet been concluded and their resolution will be brought forward to a future Committee.

- £25,000 to develop quality information for carers. Decisions about the host organisation for these monies has yet to be completed and will also be advised in a future report.
- £35,000 for Lanarkshire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust to assess, plan and meet the educational needs of carers to support discharge from hospital care. This sum has been agreed as the final amount to be paid to the Trust for this service, which will cover the Monklands General Hospital catchment.

3.2. Of the balance of monies available, £78,870, approval is sought for the following priorities, as determined by the Carers Strategy Group.

- £35,000 to Lanarkshire Association for Mental Health to develop respite services for people with mental health problems.
- £4,000 to the Mental Health User & Carer Involvement Team for one-off expenditure to promote electronic means of communicating with carers of people with mental health problems.
- £8,000 to Partners in Play, who provide access to playschemes for children with disabilities, for the annual cost of leasing premises.
- £2,500 to Parkinsons Self Help Group (Monklands) for one-off expenditure for equipment and training.
- £520 to Hillview Playscheme for children with disabilities for transport costs.

3.3. This leaves a balance of £28,850 for consideration by carers at future meetings of the Carers Strategy Group which will actively seek further requests for funding, the outcome of which will be included in a future report to Committee.

4. FINANCIAL/PERSONNEL/LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Funding for carers has been included in the Social Work budget. The proposals are consistent with the National Strategy for Carers, the North Lanarkshire Carers Strategy and the Council's Community Care Plan.

4.2. There are no personnel implications at this stage.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Committee is asked to:

- approve the use of monies to support carers as set out in para 3.2; and
- otherwise note the contents of this report.



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Director of Social Work
15 August 2001

For further information on this report please contact Duncan Mackay, Manager, Community Care (Adult Services) (TEL: 01698 332067)